

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 151193
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AS-01 SS-15 SSO-00 PRS-01 INR-07
INRE-00 /034 R

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APPROVED BY EA/K - MR. HURWITZ
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O 291613Z JUN 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KS, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S ASIA SOCIETY ADDRESS

FOLLOWING IS THE KOREA PORTION OF THE SECRETARY'S ASIA
SOCIETY SPEECH. FULL TEXT TO FOLLOW SEPTEL:

QUOTE ACROSS ASIA WE HAVE CLOSE AND HISTORIC TIES WITH MANY
OTHER NATIONS, AND WE INTEND TO SEEK NEW WAYS TO STRENGTHEN
THEM.

THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA HAS MADE GOOD USE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES
PROVIDED BY PEACE ON THE PENINSULA TO BECOME INCREASINGLY
SELF-RELIANT AND SELF-SUFFICIENT. THE STANDARD OF LIVING
OF ITS PEOPLE HAS IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY OVER THE PAST
DECADE. ITS TRADE HAS GROWN ENORMOUSLY. ITS AGRICULTURE
HAS BEEN REVOLUTIONIZED.

OUR SECURITY COMMITMENT TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND OUR
DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN IT ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE PRE-
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SERVATION OF PEACE IN NORTHEAST ASIA.

SOUTH KOREA'S GROWTH AND STRENGTH ARE THE BASIS FOR
PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION TO PROCEED WITH A CAREFULLY
PHASED WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN GROUND TROOPS. THIS WILL BE

DONE IN A WAY THAT WILL NOT ENDANGER THE SECURITY OF SOUTH

KOREA. WE WILL ALSO SEEK, WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE CONGRESS, TO STRENGTHEN SOUTH KOREA'S DEFENSE CAPABILITIES.

FURTHERMORE:

-- OUR GROUND TROOPS CONSTITUTE ONLY ABOUT 5 OF THE TOTAL GROUND TROOPS COMMITTED TO THE DEFENSE OF SOUTH KOREA.

-- THE GRADUAL WITHDRAWAL OF THESE TROOPS OVER FOUR TO FIVE YEARS WILL BE OFFSET BY THE GROWING STRENGTH AND SELF-CONFIDENCE OF THE SOUTH KOREAN ARMED FORCES.

-- OUR AIR,NAVAL, AND OTHER SUPPORTING ELEMENTS WILL REMAIN.

--WE ARE WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE KOREANS TO HELP THEM INCREASE THEIR OWN DEFENSE CAPABILITIES.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA SHARE A STRONG DESIRE TO ESTABLISH A DURABLE FRAMEWORK FOR MAINTAINING PEACE AND STABILITY ON THE PENINSULA.

-- WE SUPPORT THE ENTRY OF NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA INTO THE UNITED NATIONS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO ULTIMATE REUNIFICATION.

-- WE ARE PREPARED TO MOVE TOWARD IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NORTH KOREA PROVIDED NORTH KOREA'S ALLIES TAKE STEPS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH SOUTH KOREA.

-- WE HAVE PROPOSED NEGOTIATIONS TO REPLACE THE EXISTING ARMISTICE WITH MORE PERMANENT ARRANGEMENTS.

-- WE HAVE OFFERED TO MEET FOR THIS PURPOSE WITH SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AS THE PARTIES MOST IMMEDIATELY CONCERNED AND TO EXPLORE WITH THEM THE POSSIBILITIES FOR A LARGER CONFERENCE. WE WILL ENTER ANY NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE FUTURE OF THE PENINSULA ONLY WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE151193
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JBOARDMAN:FLW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770232-0447
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977066/aaaaafjj.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 02da417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2163047
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S ASIA SOCIETY ADDRESS FOLLOWING IS THE KOREA PORTION OF THE SECRETARY'S ASIA SOCIETY SPEECH.
FULL TEXT TO FOLLOW SEPTTEL
TAGS: PFOR, KS, US, XB, ASIA SOCIETY, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: SEOUL
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/02da417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009